

Message

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent: 6/25/2019 4:37:18 PM

To:

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Subject: Re: Fwd: RACISM /CDPHE and the VB/I 70 CAG

Thank you for this information. I didn't realize this or the disparity in how the different CAGs are being treated but it is clear the VB/I-70 CAG is being treated differently, and for apparently unjustified reasons, and this needs to end.

Erik Stark

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Bridget Walsh <denverbridget@gmail.com>

Date: 6/25/19 6:06 AM (GMT-07:00)

To: Jennifer Opila - CDPHE <jennifer.opila@state.co.us>, "jeannine.natterman"

<jeannine.natterman@state.co.us>, megan.hughes@state.co.us, karin.mcgowan@state.co.us, "Jamison - CDPHE, Douglas" <doug.jamison@state.co.us>, jill.ryan@state.co.us, Auditor <auditor@denvergov.org>, "Aviles, Jesse" <Aviles.Jesse@epa.gov>, Leslie Herod <leslie@leslieherod.com>, Angela Williams <Sen.Williams.SD33@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: RACISM /CDPHE and the VB/I 70 CAG

FYI. CDPHE has long refused to post on its website information about the Vasquez Bl. /I-70 Superfund Site Community Advisory Group(CAG).

This CAG is located in an EPA Environmental Justice Site populated by mostly low income hispanics.

CDPHE posts for other CAGs including Lowry Landfill, that is not located in an EJ site.

I have to ask if institutional racism is the cause of this serious omission on the part of CDPHE. If not, then what?

See the letter below that I sent to Jess Aviles of EPA.

See documentation below that lays out and confirms our concern.

I ask again: Why does CDPHE refuse to post on its website for the VB/I-70 CAG?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bridget Walsh** <denverbridget@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 5:46 PM

Subject: RACISM and the VB/I 70 CAG

To: Aviles, Jesse <Aviles.Jesse@epa.gov>, Steve Wharton <wharton.steve@epa.gov>, Chergo, Jennifer <Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov>, Fonda Apostolopoulos - CDPHE <fonda.apostolopoulos@state.co.us>, Parish - CDPHE, Meg <meg.parish@state.co.us>, Oeth - CDPHE, Trisha <trisha.oeth@state.co.us>, Ross, Andrew - DEH CE2294 Project Manager II <Andrew.Ross@denvergov.org>

Dear Jesse,

There has been a misunderstanding.

At the June CAG meeting, I did not accuse anyone of being a racist.

This fact was confirmed in an email from the CAG Administrator Kim Morris.

We also have a complete recording of the meeting.

I am so sorry if you took my inquiries that way.

I assume that English is not your first language and that you may miss some nuances of the language.

You emailed Kim Morse, the CAG Administrator :

"Hello Kim:

Last Tuesday Bridget call us racists. The facilitator will call out such accusations in the next meetings. If the accusations continue, the person will be asked to leave. If the person doesn't agree to leave, EPA will leave the meeting. Race does not restrict our dedication."

Jesse Aviles

Remedial Project Manager

Environmental Protection Agency

Kim's reply:

"Jesse,

Bridget may have implied that there were some racial disparities in how she perceives the different CAGs being supported by EPA Region 8. I didn't hear her call anyone at the meeting a racist. Just to make sure I didn't miss that word leaving her lips, I fact checked with another meeting attendee. They confirmed that they did not hear Bridget call anyone a racist.

It is difficult to ignore that there are differences in how, for example, the Lowry Landfill CAG is supported vs how the VB/I-70 CAG is supported by the EPA and other local agencies, based on agendas, agency and elected official attendance, audio/visual support for onsite and remote attendees, materials and information, website support and conversations with people involved with both groups. We stand with our neighbors living within the VB/I-70 neighborhoods and are working for equal resources, representation and protection that has been withheld from them previously.

*Regards,
Kim"*

Difference between 'racist' and 'racism'

There is a difference between accusing a *person* of being a racist and questioning whether institutional racism is preventing the Vasquez Blvd./ I-70 Superfund Site (VB/I-70) Community Advisory Group (CAG) from full access to agency services afforded to other CAGs in Colorado.

I was questioning the reasons behind the seeming unequal treatment of the VB/I-70 CAG that represents a CAG in an EPA Environmental Justice Site and CAGs that are not located in low income, minority areas.

Race is Important: VB/I-70 is an EPA Environmental Justice Site

The VB/I-70 Site is an EPA Environmental Justice Site because there is a predominance of low income, minority people who live there.

Unusual Treatment of VB/I-70 CAG by Agencies

Chuck Norris, one of the VB/I-70 CAG volunteer experts who has worked on many superfund projects as a technical expert and witness, shared his observations about the unusual treatment of the VB/I-70 CAG. Click here to read.

CDPHE's Unequal Treatment of VB/I-70 CAG?

What could the reason be that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) refuses to post information to its website for and about the VB/I-70 CAG, but posts for other CAGs?

CDPHE wrote to a CAG member that the reason that they do not post the VB/I-70 CAG information on their website as they do for other CAGs in Denver and Colorado is because they have determined the VB/I-70 CAG is not a "real" CAG because we do not have a Technical Assistance Grant(TAG).

CDPHE was dead wrong on this point.

Jesse, you were cc'd on this email but apparently did not correct the misinformation.

As you know, having a TAG does not define a CAG. A CAG may have a TAG or not.

The VB/I-70 CAG is fortunate, to have two excellent volunteer technical advisors, Chuck Norris and Adrian Brown, saving taxpayers the cost of paying for these expensive technical services.